

CD NO. 25X1 25X1

DATE/ DISTR. 28 September 1955

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW) 25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

2. Leading personnel¹ attached to the main administration for highways include: 25X1

25X1

Schlag (fnu)

25X1

DISTRIBUTION

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

25X1

Hauptreferent
(First Referent)

25X1

Nadoll (fnu),

Oberreferent (Chief Referent)

25X1

Wolfgang Moehler,

Labor Department

Chief of the department

25X1

Kurt Urban,

Chief Referent

25X1

Gustav Flehm,

Chief Referent

25X1

Klinger (fnu)

Female Secretary

25X1

Kegel (fnu),

*Note: Staatlicher Strassenunterhalts-Betrieb

SECRET

25X1

25X1

SECRET

- 3 -

25X1

Planning Department

Chief of the department

25X1

Berg (fnu)

Chief Referent for
Investments

25X1

Paul Hovenbitzer

Chief Referent

25X1

Dagmar Gruenberg

Referent

25X1

Harry Tasche

Hauptsachbearbeiter
(assistant referent)

25X1

Edith Gerich

Assistant Referent

25X1

Utermark (fnu),

Female secretary

25X1

Schoppa (fnu)

SECRET

25X1

SECRET



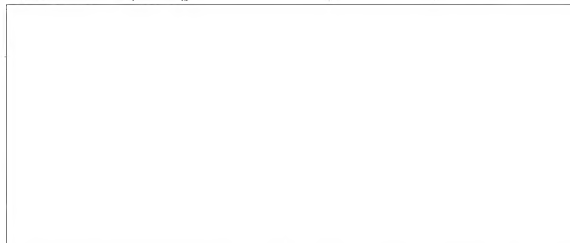
4 -

Bridge Department

25X1

Departmental Chief

Rudolf Schild



Chief Referent

25X1

Henry Waltenberg



Chief Referent

25X1

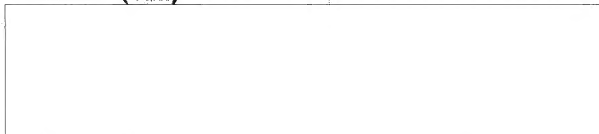
Sigfried Kasper



Female secretary

25X1

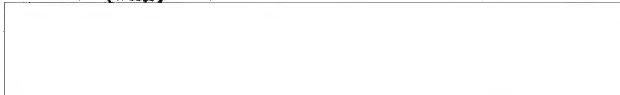
Schmidt (fnu)



Draftsman

25X1

Reich (fnu)

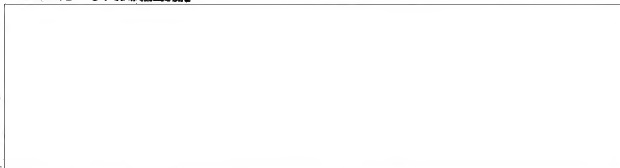


Highway Department

25X1

Chief of the department

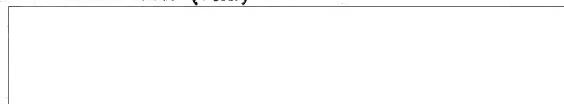
Hans Ochsmann



Female secretary

25X1

Haldensleben (fnu)



SECRET



25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 5 -

Referent

Haering (fnu)

25X1

Chief Referent

Stehling (fnu)

25X1

Chief Referent

Frl. Nagel (fnu)

25X1

Research Development
Department

Departmental chief

Schiller (fnu)

25X1

Chief Referent

Hicke (fnu)

25X1

Female secretary

Frl. Schroeter (fnu)

25X1

Finance Department

25X1

Chief of the department

Wagner (fnu)

Referent

Georg Glowicki

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 6 -

Assistant Referent

25X1

Schoenfeld (fnu)

Female secretary

25X1

Koch (fnu)

Material Supply Department

Chief of the department

25X1

Schiewer (fnu)

Chief Referent

25X1

Baummeister (fnu)

Assistant Referent

25X1

Frau Chevkow (fnu)

3. Agencies and enterprises assigned to the Main Administration

include:

a. Traffic departments in the Councils of the following GDR Bezirke:

Rostock
Schwerin
Neubrandenburg
Potsdam
Frankfurt/Oder
Gottbus
Magdeburg
Halle/Saale
Erfurt
Gera
Suhl
Dresden
Karl-Marx-Stadt
Leipzig

b. The nationalized Designs Bureau for Road Construction Work on Dircksenstrasse in Berlin.

c. Staatlicher Strassenunterhaltungsbetrieb (State Road Maintenance Enterprises) (SSUB) in the following towns:

Halle on the Saale River (for Autobahnen)
Stralsund
Schwerin
Neustrelitz
Brandenburg

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 7 -

Kyritz
Strausberg
Cottbus
Magdeburg
Stendal
Halberstadt
Halle on the Saale River
Eisleben
Wittenberg
Erfurt
Muehlhausen
Gera
Meiningen
Dresden
Bautzen
Karl-Marx-Stadt
Zwickau
Plauen
Leipzig

d. Nationalized Road Construction Enterprises at:

Greifswald
Potsdam
Halle on the Saale River
Weimar

4. The following details on operations and administrative procedures were furnished: 1

- a. The Main Administration for Highways is in charge of all long-distance highways and Autobahnen, as well as of bridges on these highways and of Autobahn resthouses. Prior to 1953, new road and bridge construction projects had to be approved by the Soviet Control Commission, which also designated those bridges whose load capacity had to be increased to 30 to 40 tons for wheeled vehicles and 80 tons for tracked vehicles. The Soviets were primarily interested in the existence of a modern east-west route in the northern portion of the GDR. In 1954, the responsibility for all highway construction projects was transferred to the Ministry of the Interior. Liaison officer between the Ministry of the Interior and the Main Administration for Highways was Department Chief Messerschmidt, who in late 1954 was replaced by Oehsmann. The volume of construction work to be done for the Ministry of the Interior increased so much, that the volume of road construction work done for civilian purposes dwindled more and more. Of all road construction projects executed in 1954, only 25 percent were of a commercial nature, while 75 percent were of a purely military character. The Autobahn bridge over the Oder River at Frankfurt, a so-called "friendship project" will cost approximately 48,000,000 DME. Since 1952, from 20 to 25 percent of the money available for bridge construction projects has annually been allocated for this project. Roads built on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior are financed by this ministry and construction work is not under the control of the State Planning Commission. Such roads are designed by the nationalized Designs Bureau for Road Construction Projects on Bircksenstrasse in Berlin. Approach roads and byroads required by highway construction projects of the Ministry of the Interior must be financed by the administrative agencies concerned, i.e., either Kreis or Bezirk administrations.

SECRET

25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 8 -

Construction projects of the Ministry of the Interior were under way at Strausberg, Weisswasser, Prora-Lanken and Torgelow.

- b. Construction materials, road construction machinery and the labor force available were adequate for a volume of construction work valued at 70,000,000 DME. It is believed that the volume of construction work executed in 1955 will be much smaller in view of major construction projects planned by the Ministry of the Interior. In connection with these projects, some Bau-Union firms have already been withdrawn from public construction projects. The situation in the GDR building industry is rather tight, because structural steel, timber and cement are in short supply and subject to rationing. Money allocated to new construction projects critically reduces the funds available for general repair and maintenance work. The consequences of this situation is that the physical status of all roads has deteriorated considerably since World War II. Only brown coal tar is used for the surface treatment of highways. The quality of repair work done leaves much to be desired, because the subsurface of roads cannot be reconditioned in view of the shortage of stones. In the winter of 1954/1955, frost damage occurring in Bezirk Leipzig amounted to 23,000,000 DME. The production of stones cannot be raised for lack of quarrying machines, although 4 large Soviet stone breakers were recently made available. Well hardened crusher jaws are in short supply in all quarries. In view of this situation, the resolution has been taken henceforth to provide highways only with concrete surfaces. A granulated blast furnace cement is mostly used as a bed for the surface layer. This cement is furnished by the Foundry Combine East (EKO) at Tuerstenberg/Oder (Stalinstadt). Almost the entire output of copper-slag bricks is exported.
- c. Four special highway maintenance enterprises are available for the construction of new highways and general repair work on roads. A total of 23 "Staatliche Strassenunterhaltungsbetriebe" (State Highway Maintenance Enterprises) (SSUB) are employed for road maintenance work. Each SSUB controls several Kreis road maintenance points. The SSUB responsible for maintenance work on Autobahnen is located in Halle/Saale. This agency controls 6 field main posts (Hauptbetriebsstelle). All the 28 enterprises mentioned are controlled by the Construction Department of the Main Administration for Highways.
- d. When a Polish delegation of highways technicians visited the GDR Main Administration for Highways, it was learned that the Poles were spending more money on road construction projects and the maintenance of highways than was spent in the GDR. It was believed that about 50 percent of the road construction machinery used by the Poles dated from the period 1910 - 1922. The remainder were modern Polish and Soviet machines. Information obtained indicated that administrative procedures in Poland were more efficient than in the GDR. Highway construction projects were generally started on schedule and construction material seemed to be available in adequate quantities. Profits made by the individual construction enterprises are not transferred to the State, but invested by the enterprise involved. The wages of Polish road construction and maintenance workers are 80 percent of the wages paid in Germany. The leading personnel of Polish road maintenance agencies is probably more efficient than the corresponding personnel in the GDR.

SECRET

25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 9 -

- e. In 1953, an order was issued to the effect that all GDR highway maintenance posts had to form so-called brigades. Previously, the procedure followed in East Germany was that road maintenance foremen **supervised** a number of road menders each of whom was responsible for the maintenance of specific section of a highway. Major damages were repaired by workers of the SSUB under the control of the road mender in charge. The organization of brigades, the smallest of which is in the strength of 3 men, has had a detrimental effect on the quality of road maintenance work done. These road maintenance brigades are primarily interested in fulfilling their work quotas, and they therefore concentrate on the repair of major damages thus neglecting minor damages. Road maintenance foremen are mostly not in a position to check on the repair work performed by the road maintenance brigades working under them. Efforts have been made since March 1954 to work out reasonable regulations for road maintenance work. Progress in this direction, however, is too much hampered by stress on political considerations and a blind imitation of Soviet procedures. Apart from stone chippings, material required for road maintenance work is available in adequate quantities. Storage facilities for hard coal tar are in short supply, however. Road maintenance work also suffers from a shortage of road building machinery.
- f. In 1954, a 12-ton road roller was developed in the GDR. The roller was scheduled to cost approximately 40,000 DM. Tests made with this roller indicated, however, that it was not suitable for quantity production. Most of the road building machinery in use is furnished by the USSR, because Western currency is not available. The Main Administration for Highways, is interested in buying the exhibition models of all foreign road building machines on display at the Leipzig Fair. It would be difficult however, to obtain replacement parts for these machines.
- g. Thorough repair work involving a reconditioning of the road surface and its subgrade is meeting with increasing difficulties. The same applies to repair work on roads. The shortage of stones is so acute that the urgent widening of major highways had to be postponed again and again. In 1954, highway experts drafted a memorandum for the State Planning Commission. In this memorandum, it was pointed out that the poor condition of GDR highways was the cause of an excessive wear-and-tear suffered by motor vehicles and tires. Moreover, excessive repair work **required by** the poor condition of highways caused the consumption of additional gasoline by **necessitating** long detours. The **cost of** damage caused by inadequately maintained roads was believed to **equal** the cost of construction of 38 kilometers of new highways. For 1955, plans had been made to allocate a sum of 50,000,000 DM for repair work on highways and the construction of new roads. It was unknown, if these sums have actually been made available or not. The various administrative agencies in charge of road construction work are only informed about the budget available to them for current maintenance work and general repairs. In most cases the sums allocated to the different Bezirke proved inadequate. Bridges were frequently closed when money or materials were not available for the repair work required. All these shortages make planned road and bridge maintenance work impossible. The emergency bridges built in the GDR after 1945, will not be replaced by permanent structures before 1961, if the situation in the field of highway construction work is not radically changed.

SECRET

25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 10 -

The expansion of machine and tractor stations in the GDR represents an additional strain on East German highways. The heavy machinery of these agencies subject highways to an excessive wear. The shortage of stones required for road construction projects is so **great** that the stone walls of various village **cemeteries** were dismantled for road construction purposes.

- h. Plans made for the construction of new highways and bridges did not sufficiently take into consideration the monetary means and the construction materials required. The monetary means required for highway and bridge construction projects exceeded by 70 to 100 percent the sums earmarked to be spent according to preliminary plans (Kontrollziffern). Each road construction project is listed in a so-called Projektierungsplan (provisional plan). Detailed reasons are given for the necessity of the execution of this project and an estimate of cost is also made. The Projektierungsplan must be approved by the State Planning Commission, usually in the year before the beginning of construction work. After the Projektierungsplan has been approved, the Designs Bureau for Road Construction Projects begins to work on the so-called Vor- und Feinprojektierungsverträge; completed designs are checked at Potsdam - Babelsberg and then forwarded to the planning agency involved. After **the projects have been cleared**, the highway construction project will be signed and approved by the Minister or State Secretary. The budget committee of the Volkskammer checks on the volume of highway construction projects submitted by the various planning agencies. Usually, the Volkskammer cuts the sums planned to be spent on highway construction projects. In 1955, these cuts were very heavy. The whole procedure of checks and controls by various administrative agencies drastically changed the original investment plan, drawn up by the Main Administration for Highways. Since time available is usually very short, the modifications to be made are effected in a hasty way.

25X1

[redacted] a total of 31,000 plans had to be modified in the GDR. This experience induced the Main Administration for Highways to include in its provisional plans (Projektierungspläne) for highway and bridge construction projects, imaginary projects which could be eliminated in the event that monetary allocations for construction projects were cut. Plans made for the reconstruction of damaged bridges suffered from the fact that in most cases the extent of damage could only be determined after the debris had been cleared away from the structure involved. It happened that the cost of repair work was much higher than assumed in the provisional plan submitted. This again led to a time-consuming modification of investment plans which had to be approved by the GDR Council of Ministers. In 1954, plans made for financing of reconstruction work on bridges had to be modified 4 times on some occasions. After 1954, plans made for bridge construction work were fulfilled 35 to 40 percent. It is a law in the GDR that financial plans approved for highway and bridge construction projects must be minutely **followed** by nationalized construction enterprises. Since estimates of cost made by the state agencies leave much to be desired, construction enterprises are reluctant to accept the contracts offered. The quarrels resulting from these differences often extend over several weeks. For fear of losing time, the administrative agencies involved are often obliged to conclude an **over-all** work contract which only **stipulates** that construction work valued at a specific sum must be made. Planning work is also hampered

25X1

SECRET

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET

- 11 -

by the fact that work at designs offices is done by so-called brigades which put the quantity of work performed before quality of performance. The consequence is that designs completed have to be modified several times. Thus, for example, the designs for the bridge over the Spree River at Cottbus and the Saale River at Schkopau had to be changed 3 or 4 times after construction work had already been started. The structural steel delivered for the bridge at Schkopau had to be replaced 3 times. When it was found out that the last delivered steel was also inadequate, the entire designs of the bridge was modified. This involved a nonscheduled outlay of 1,200,000 DME.

- i. The production of structural steel in the GDR is a critical problem. Production plans of rolling mills are often made irrespective of actual requirements. Very often, the structural steel required for the individual construction sites arrived only in the 4th quarter of the year and the consequence was that construction work could not be completed on schedule. 25X1 25X1

1. Comment. Many of the names mentioned in the present report were known previously. 25X1

It is believed that the information on the physical status of GDR highways is correct. A shortage of funds and construction materials in addition to very clumsy administrative procedure make it improbable that the deterioration in the physical status of roads will be stopped in the near future. 25X1 25X1

the 1954 road and bridge construction program was fulfilled 92.8 percent, while the present report indicates that this program was only fulfilled 50 percent at most. 25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1